

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO ABIE ABRAHAM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor Sgt. Abie Abraham, a distinguished veteran of World War II from Butler, PA, who is being recognized this week as the Butler County Veteran of the Year.

Abie Abraham was born on July 31, 1913, in Lyndora, PA, to Syrian immigrants. At an early age, Abie showed perseverance and strength when he set a record in the Guinness Book of World Records for tree-sitting on a wooden platform for 3 months.

In 1932, Abie Abraham enlisted in the U.S. Army. He had been head boxing coach in Panama in 1935, and as a boxer, has a 54-6 record and was light/welterweight champion of the Panama Canal Department. In 1938, he was stationed in the Philippines, with the 31st Infantry Regiment as a platoon sergeant.

Three hours after the invasion of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Japanese forces hit the Philippines. After several months of intense fighting in horrible conditions, the Philippines and United States forces surrendered. A lack of food and supplies and exposure to tropical diseases had left the troops weakened when the Japanese took them as prisoners. Sergeant Abraham was on the infamous Bataan Death March during which so many American lives were lost. He was held as a prisoner-of-war from April 9, 1942 to January 31, 1945 until the 6th American Rangers freed the prison camp where what was left of the only infantry regiment stationed in the Philippines was being held. After his release, General MacArthur requested that Sergeant Abraham remain in the Philippines to locate and disinter bodies from the Bataan Death March so that they could be brought home for a proper burial. He remained there until July 1947.

Sergeant Abraham retired as a master sergeant in 1955 with 23 years of service. He had received a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, a Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, as well as three Presidential Unit Citations and the Philippine Presidential Award.

After retiring from the Army, Sergeant Abraham worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as a road supervisor from 1955 to 1962 before leaving to work for a family business until 1979.

In 1971, Sergeant Abraham wrote "Ghost of the Bataan Speaks" which details his prison camp experience. His book is used in several States to teach the history of World War II. He also personally answers a multitude of inquiries from people all over the world about the Bataan Death March.

In addition to serving his country, Sergeant Abraham has contributed on a local level in his community. In the past 6 years, he has volunteered over 10,000 hours working nearly

8 hours a day, 5 days a week at the VA medical center in Butler, PA. He is the POW-MIA Coordinator at the VAMC and has helped to arrange ceremonies to remember the Americans who were prisoners of war and those who are unaccounted for today. He spends time visiting with patients in the VA medical center as well as trying to resolve complaints and provide assistance to veterans and their families. He was honored in 1994 as the Outstanding Veteran in the State of Pennsylvania by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

He has been a member of the Disabled American Veterans—Chapter No. 64, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Ex-Prisoner's of War, and the American Legion where he continues to be active in veterans issues.

Sergeant Abraham served his country courageously in the face of death and remained true to the soldiers who served with him and lost their lives. He has used his experience to educate others about World War II and to honor the memory of the ones lost. Thankfully, for the community of Butler, PA, Sgt. Abie Abraham survived the horrors of the Bataan Death March and being held in a prison camp. The service that he has continued to give to the veteran community over the years is truly outstanding and worthy of our praise. I am thankful that Sgt. Abie Abraham is a member of our community and that he continues to make a difference in the lives of those he touches.

HONORING PATRICIA V. ASIP

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Patricia V. Asip on receiving the National Hispanic Corporate Council's [NHCC] Charter Award at the recent 10th anniversary dinner.

Currently serving as the manager of the multicultural affairs at J.C. Penny Co., Inc., Ms. Asip was a founding board member of the NHCC. As the first marketer to join the NHCC, she has spent her professional career showing the American business community the value of the Hispanic market. A leader in the Hispanic community, her desire and efforts in reaching out to the Hispanic market show her to be a truly admirable woman. I would like to commend her on her achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable woman.

THE WAR ON DRUGS—TIME TO RECOMMIT OUR EFFORTS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, there are those who would like us to believe that we are losing the war on drugs. The truth is that during the Reagan-Bush years drug use in the United States actually dropped by more than 50 percent, from 24 million users in 1979 to 11 million in 1992.

Unfortunately, many of those hard-fought gains have been wasted under President Clinton's watch. The fact is that the trend toward increased drug use, across the board, corresponds directly to President Clinton's term of office. For whatever reason, this President is either unwilling or unable to address this crisis. It is time for congressional leadership.

Reducing the demand for illegal drugs is essential to the most important things common to all Americans: our children and families, our safety and the safety of our children, our health and the economy. The legislation outlined below represents a comprehensive and effective strategy aimed at reducing the demand for illegal drugs:

H.R. 143 requires the pre-employment drug testing of applicants for Federal employment.

H.R. 134 denies certain Federal benefits to convicted drug felons.

H.R. 136 requires random drug testing of all Federal employees.

H.R. 138 requires courts to notify employers of employees' drug convictions.

H.R. 141 suspends Federal education assistance to convicted drug felons.

H.R. 1706 provides quality assurance and expands drug testing in the private sector.

H.R. 135 prohibits federally sponsored research pertaining to the legalization of drugs.

H.R. 147 reduces the minimum quantity of drugs for which a person may be executed.

Drug use and drug addiction cause most of the violence and permeate virtually every social, health, and economic problem we face. Please join in cosponsoring any or all of the above bills by contacting my office.

Mr. Speaker, today I insert into the RECORD a Washington Post story which reports that hospital emergency room visits by cocaine and other drug users are up again.

EMERGENCY ROOMS TREAT HALF-MILLION DRUG CASES

A half-million Americans wound up in hospital emergency rooms with drug-related problems last year, including a record number with cocaine-related episodes.

Cocaine figured in 23 percent or 142,000 of those emergency visits, up 15 percent from 1993, according to estimates released yesterday by a federal agency that tracks the effect of drug use.

Drug-related episodes were estimated to account for 0.6 percent of the 86 million visits to hospital emergency departments in the United States in 1994. Fifty-five percent of

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all drug-related episodes occurred among those age 26 to 44.

Thirteen percent of those treated for drug-related problems had used heroin, sometimes in combination with cocaine, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The number of heroin-related episodes rose slightly to 64,000 from those reported in 1993.

"Speed," "crank" and other meth-amphetamine drugs figured in 17,400 cases, a 75 percent increase above the 1993 figure.

"At a time when it appears there is a resurgence in cocaine-related emergency department episodes, we cannot afford to cut prevention and treatment funding," Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala said in a statement.

The most commonly reported motive for drug use was attempted suicide. That was the reason in an estimated 193,000 of the 508,000 episodes, or 38 percent. Dependence on drugs was reported as a motive in 165,000 episodes, or 32 percent, and "recreational use" in 43,000 episodes, or 3 percent.

Other reasons for coming to the hospital included unexpected reactions (66,000 or 13 percent) and seeking detoxification (52,000 or 10 percent). Multiple reasons were listed in some cases.

The federal agency regularly surveys emergency departments of hospitals in its Drug Abuse Warning Network and extrapolates how many such episodes occurred nationally.

Cocaine-related episodes shot up from 29,000 in 1985 to 110,000 in 1989. They dropped in 1990 to 80,000, then increased again to 120,000 in 1992. They leveled off in 1993 at 123,000 before escalating in 1994.

Adults from their mid-twenties to mid-forties had twice as many cocaine-related emergency visits as younger and older adults. Men were more than twice as likely as women to show up with cocaine problems.

Some 40,000 episodes were related to marijuana and hashish, up 39 percent from 1993. The hospital records indicated almost half of these patients also used alcohol and cocaine.

The estimates were based on a survey of 496 hospitals with 24-hour-a-day emergency departments. The government has conducted similar surveys since the late 1970s.

VETERANS AND THE BUDGET

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this week we honor the veterans who have served our country bravely and selflessly. I find it absolutely appalling that as we honor them, the Clinton administration misleads them. It is reprehensible. The Clinton administration has resorted to bogus studies and scare tactics where our veterans are concerned. The Democrats only agenda is to deter the Republican-led Congress from doing what is right, balancing the budget.

The Clinton administration cites flawed studies and spreads misinformation because they have no serious plan of their own. The latest campaign of fear, aimed at veterans, distorts our Medicaid reform using a general study on Medicaid—not a veterans-specific study. In fact, the study did not even use experts in the area of veterans' affairs. The GAO deemed the study questionable after discovering that the Urban Institute had used alternative assumptions or methods for their findings.

The report contains numerous factual errors and conspicuously omits important facts like

veterans spending increasing by \$40 billion over the next 7 years, Medicare spending increasing 54 percent and Medicaid spending increasing by 39 percent.

It really is not surprising that the Clinton administration has resorted to this kind of fearmongering. After all, it was only last week, an adviser to the President was quoted as saying "I subscribe to terror. Terror tends to work because it is so easy to make people hate." A statement like this denotes the true character and the lengths to which the Clinton administration will go to mislead our veterans and the American people.

SUBSTITUTION OF H.R. 671

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 1995, I and my good friends, Mr. BILL RICHARDSON, Mr. PAT WILLIAMS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, and Mr. PETER DEFAZIO, introduced the Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1995, H.R. 671, in an effort to create an efficient and fair procedure for extending Federal recognition to Indian tribes. In my remarks at that time, I stated that introduction of the legislation was only the starting point for further discussion and debate and that I looked forward to the advice and input of colleagues, the agency, and tribes.

Mr. Speaker, since January a number of occurrences have provided me with some of the discussion and input that I was looking for. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing in July on S. 479, a bill very similar to the original H.R. 671. Nonrecognized and recognized tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian organizations, and experts submitted testimony on the bill and the existing recognition process. In addition, the White House has held a number of meetings with nonrecognized tribes so that they could discuss recognition with administration officials. As a direct result of those meetings, the Department of the Interior set up a task force of administration people and representatives of nonrecognized tribes to assist the Department in formulating a position on whether the recognition criteria could be improved. Further, only this month an administrative law judge, in the first challenge to a decision against recognition, has essentially reversed BIA/BAR. In doing so, the ALJ was critical of BAR's methodology and interpretation of their own criteria. The judge's views of the existing criteria can be considered a suggestion that the criteria could be improved.

Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed all of those developments and taken into account the views of the interested parties. As a result, I have modified H.R. 671 to improve both the procedures and the criteria that were in the original bill. The modifications will advance the goals of recognition reform legislation—providing a more objective, consistent, and streamlined standard for acknowledging groups as federally recognized Indian tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I have made the following changes to the original H.R. 671. The procedures under which the independent commission would hear and decide petitions for recognition have been slightly modified. Provisions that would have excluded groups from petitioning for recognition or continuing to seek recognition have been removed. Most importantly, the criteria for recognition have been improved. The improvements take into account the almost unanimous view of the experts and affected tribes that the criteria used in the existing administrative process, which were carried into the original H.R. 671, do not really test whether a group should be recognized or not and unnecessarily burden petitioners and decisionmakers. I believe that it is only through these changes that we will enact a process that is both fair and able to resolve the recognition issue in the timeframe anticipated.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING OLGA AROS

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Olga Aros, the winner of the National Hispanic Corporate Council's [NHCC] Visionary Award, presented to her at the NHCC's 10th anniversary dinner.

Ms. Aros currently works as the staff director for diversity development at McDonald's Corp., where she has the opportunity to lead the corporate efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community. She was one of the original board members of NHCC, and served as its first president. She has tirelessly worked for the advancement of Hispanics, using her positions in marketing, human resources, public affairs, and her community service to promote Hispanic causes. It is safe to say that without the vision and effort of Ms. Aros, the NHCC wouldn't have achieved the great success that it has over the past 10 years. She was a driving force behind the council's inception and its formidable expansion. Its success is a testament to her abilities, and I ask my colleagues to recognize the considerable accomplishments of Ms. Aros.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, because of an unforeseen scheduling conflict, I was not in attendance for one recorded vote, rollcall vote No. 769 on the resolution regarding Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 769.